

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An article ~~with~~ comprising a composite hard coat layer, ~~the composite hard coat layer comprising layer which comprises~~ a hard coat layer on a the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on a the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein

the hard coat layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof,

the anti-staining surface layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound, and

the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein the anti-staining surface layer has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein

the hard coat layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, and

the anti-staining surface layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silane coupling agent, ~~agent, and~~

~~the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein

the hard coat layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, and

the anti-staining surface layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silazane compound. ~~compound, and~~
~~the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein

the hard coat layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silazane compound,

the anti-staining surface layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silane coupling agent. ~~agent, and~~
~~the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein

the hard coat layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silazane compound, and

the anti-staining surface layer ~~is made of~~ comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silazane compound. ~~compound, and~~
~~the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 3, ~~claim 3 or 4~~, wherein the hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound ~~comprised in the hard coat agent composition~~ is selected from silicon compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



~~where~~ wherein X is a hydrolyzable group; R is an organic group; and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 3, ~~claim 3 or 5~~, wherein the silane coupling agent ~~comprised in the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material includes~~ comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 4, ~~claim 4 or 6~~, wherein the silazane compound ~~comprised in the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material includes~~ comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for forming a composite hard coat layer comprising a hard coat layer and an anti-staining surface layer on a surface of an article, the method ~~comprising: comprising the steps of:~~

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form ~~hard-coat-treated, thereby forming~~ a hard coat agent composition layer;

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound to form ~~compound, thereby forming~~ a surface material layer; and

heating the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer ~~so as to cure the both layers simultaneously, thereby forming~~ hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material layer simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the anti-staining surface layer ~~is formed to have~~ has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the hard coat agent composition is a hard coat agent ~~composition which~~ comprises a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, or a hard coat agent composition which comprises a silazane compound.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material is ~~a material which~~ comprises a silane coupling agent having a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent, or ~~a material which~~ comprises a silazane compound having a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method for forming the composite hard coat layer according to claim 11, ~~wherein after the hard coat agent composition is applied onto the surface of the article,~~ further comprising

drying the hard coat agent composition layer is dried to remove a solvent contained comprised in the hard coat agent composition from the hard coat agent composition layer, after said applying step and before said film-forming step. ~~and then the surface material layer is formed.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, ~~wherein after the hard coat agent composition is applied onto the surface of the article,~~ further comprising:

optionally drying the hard coat agent composition layer is dried if necessary, and is then heated, and/or irradiated

heating and/or irradiating the hard coat agent composition layer with active energy rays to turn the hard coat agent composition layer into a half-cured state

after said applying step and before said film-forming step, wherein

if the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures when irradiated with active energy rays. ~~rays, to turn the hard coat agent composition layer into a half-cured state, and then~~

~~the surface material layer is formed.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, wherein the ~~surface material layer is formed by~~ film-forming step comprises applying or depositing with the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material. ~~material by applying or depositing.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 15, further comprising

irradiating with active energy rays after said heating step or

irradiating with active energy rays before said heating step, wherein when

the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays. ~~rays, either the active energy rays are irradiated after the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer have been heated, or the active energy rays are irradiated before the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer are heated.~~

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 17, ~~claim 17 or 19~~, wherein the active energy rays are electron rays or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An article ~~with~~ comprising a composite hard coat layer, ~~the composite hard coat layer comprising~~ layer which comprises a hard coat layer on [[a]] the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on [[a]] the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein the article is ~~obtained~~ produced by

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form ~~hard-coat-treated, thereby forming~~ a hard coat agent composition layer,

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound to form ~~compound, thereby forming~~ a surface material layer, and

heating the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer layer, ~~so as to cure the both layers simultaneously, thereby forming~~ hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material layer simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The article ~~with the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 21~~, wherein the article is an optical recording medium, a magneto-optical recording medium, an optical lens, an optical filter, an anti-reflection film, or a display element. ~~any one of various display elements.~~

Claim 23 (New): The article according to claim 4, wherein the hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound comprised in the hard coat agent composition is selected from silicon compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



where X is a hydrolyzable group; R is an organic group; and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

Claim 24 (New): The article according to claim 5, wherein the silane coupling agent comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 25 (New): The article according to claim 6, wherein the silazane compound comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 19, wherein the active energy rays are electron rays or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 27 (New): The article according to claim 21, wherein the article is an optical recording medium, a magneto-optical recording medium, an optical lens, an optical filter, an anti-reflection film, or a display element.